

at least one light-receiving device mounted on the other of said first and second members; and

at least one beam condensing device disposed between said light-emitting device and said light-receiving device and having a function of condensing light from said light-emitting device in a direction substantially parallel to a rotation axis of said second member,

wherein said beam condensing device is located to condense the light from said light-emitting device onto a position which is located further than said light receiving device with respect to said beam condensing device.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fujimoto (JP 5-274587); Claims 5-8, 12, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fujimoto; and Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,336,897, herein "Watanabe") in view of Fujimoto.

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Fujimoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to more clearly recite that a light is condensed in a direction "substantially parallel to a rotation axis of said second member." This feature distinguishes over Fujimoto as explained below in detail.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a noncontact type signal transmission device including a first member and a second member that moves along a predetermined orbit with respect to the first member. Further, at least one beam condensing device is disposed between a light-emitting device and a light-receiving device to condense a light in a direction substantially parallel to a rotation axis of the second member.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 6 shows the first member 5, the rotating member 10, and the beam condensing device 3. The direction substantially parallel to the rotation axis of the second member is indicated in Figure 6 by Z' while the direction of the orbit is indicated by an arrow.

Fujimoto discloses in Figures 2, 5, and 6 a light condensing device 3 that condenses a light in a direction substantially *perpendicular* to a rotation axis of a light-emitting device 1. For example, Fujimoto shows in Figure 2 the rotation direction of the light-emitting device 1 (an arrow in the plane of the figure) and the light being condensed along a line in the plane of the figure. However, a rotation axis of the light-emitting device 1 is perpendicular to the plane of the figure, and therefore, perpendicular to a condensing direction of the light.

Therefore, Fujimoto does not teach or suggest a light condensing device that condenses the light in a direction substantially *parallel* to a rotation axis of a second member, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Claims 5-8, 12, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fujimoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5-8 and 12 depend directly on independent Claim 1, which is allowable for the reasons noted above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 5-8 and 12 are also

allowable. In addition, independent Claims 15 and 16 are amended similarly as in independent Claim 1 noted above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 15 and 16 are also allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Fujimoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 recites that a light is condensed in a direction "substantially parallel to a rotation axis of said rotating ring," similarly as in amended independent Claims 1, 15, and 16 as noted above. Such a feature distinguishes over Watanabe.

Watanabe discloses an X-ray computed tomography apparatus including various elements. As recognized by the outstanding Office Action at page 5, item 5, Watanabe does not disclose the use of a light condensing device, and therefore, Fujimoto is asserted for teaching the light condensing device. As discussed above, however, Fujimoto does not teach or suggest a light condensing device that condenses light parallel to a rotation axis of a second member. Therefore, Fujimoto does not overcome the deficiencies of Watanabe.

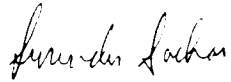
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 14 is also allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment be entered as it is believed no new issues have been raised. More specifically, the amendments to Claims 1, 15, and 16 present features similar to those of original Claim 14.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present response, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 15, and 16 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A noncontact type signal transmission device comprising:

a first member;

a second member configured to move along a predetermined orbit with respect to said first member;

at least one light-emitting device mounted on one of said first and second members;

at least one light-receiving device mounted on the other of said first and second members; and

at least one beam condensing device disposed between said light-emitting device and said light-receiving device and having a function of condensing light from said light-emitting device in a direction substantially [perpendicular] parallel to [the orbit] a rotation axis of said second member.

15. (Amended) A noncontact type signal transmission device comprising:

a first member;

a second member configured to move along a predetermined orbit with respect to said first member;

at least one light-emitting device mounted on one of said first and second members;

at least one light-receiving device mounted on the other of said first and second members; and

at least one beam condensing device disposed between said light-emitting device and said light-receiving device and having a function of condensing light from said light-emitting device in a direction substantially [perpendicular] parallel to [the orbit] a rotation axis of said second member,

wherein said beam condensing device is located to condense the light from said light-emitting device onto a position between said beam condensing device and said light receiving device.

16. (Amended) A noncontact type signal transmission device comprising:

a first member;

a second member configured to move along a predetermined orbit with respect to said first member;

at least one light-emitting device mounted on one of said first and second members;

at least one light-receiving device mounted on the other of said first and second members; and

at least one beam condensing device disposed between said light-emitting device and said light-receiving device and having a function of condensing light from said light-emitting device in a direction substantially [perpendicular] parallel to [the orbit] a rotation axis of said second member,

wherein said beam condensing device is located to condense the light from said light-emitting device onto a position which is located further than said light receiving device with respect to said beam condensing device.--